MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Marti Schuman Phone: (228) 374-5000

MLS-04-149 October 20, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three Mississippi Oyster Reef Areas to Reopen Oct. 21

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has announced the reopening of Area I "B" Conditionally Approved Waters, Area II "A" Conditionally Approved Waters and Area II "D" Conditionally Approved Waters to the harvest of oysters, **effective Thursday, Oct. 21, 2004, at legal sunrise.**

- Area I "B" Conditionally Approved Waters (reopening) includes the St. Joseph's or St. Joe Reef;
- Area II "A" Conditionally Approved Waters (reopening) includes northern portions of the Henderson Point Reef, northern portions of the Pass Christian Reef and Hornets Reef; and
- Area II "D" Conditionally Approved Waters (reopening) includes portions of the public oyster reefs in St. Louis Bay between the Highway 90 Bridge and the CSX Railroad Bridge.

For more information on the open and closed areas, call the DMR's 24-hour Oyster Information Hot Line at (228) 374-5167 or 1-800-385-5902.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

-END-